

Claims:

1. A surgical handpiece with a surgical blade that vibrates at ultrasonic frequencies for cutting and coagulating animal tissue, the surgical handpiece and surgical blade comprising:

- 5 a long axis passing through the surgical handpiece and surgical blade;
- a most distal portion of the surgical blade that is disposed away from the surgical handpiece for contacting tissue of a patient; and
- the most distal portion of the surgical blade having a vibratory motion that is substantially perpendicular to the long axis.